Dear Colleagues,

I take this moment to wish you all a successful 2015, notwithstanding that we are already seeing the end of the first quarter of the year! So far, there is some good news to report, the Minister has announced that South Africa has maintained its Foot and Mouth disease freedom status following the visit by the experts from the World Organisation for Animal Health, the OIE in November/December 2014. It is our hope that we can now turn our focus back to regaining the lost ground regarding the control of Bovine Tuberculosis and Bovine Brucellosis. Presentations by various commentators have painted a scary picture suggesting that these diseases are running amok. As veterinary professionals, we owe it to ourselves and the population at large to grasp the nettle in the control of these diseases in the interest of protecting public health.

Colleagues, I took the opportunity to visit Gauteng Veterinary Services’ Community Services Clinic in Hammanskraal. They have taken the initiative to roll out this service even before the official Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS)
programme begins and in their own words “There is nothing as refreshing for a state services system as an injection of new blood and ideas. The community service veterinarians are keen, energised, enthusiastic and willing to meet the pressing need for veterinary services.”

The SAVC presented its Strategic Plan to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on 26 March 2015. Key issues raised were the need for their support in resolving the requirement for veterinarians to acquire permits when handling Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS), a regulation of the Department of Environmental Affairs. Council seeks to implement the inspectorate as envisaged in the Amendment Bill to the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act. Council remains concerned with regards to various issues of non-compliance including the control over the use of medicines, lack of judicious use of antimicrobials and resultant antimicrobial resistance. An inspectorate, working in tandem with other authorities should bring levels of non-compliance in line. Council further highlighted the need for the implementation of CCS in order to improve food safety and security in South Africa. This is in line with Councils’ vision of advancing public and animal health through quality veterinary services for all.

Council has resolved to commence with the CPD requirements as part of maintenance of registration for veterinary para-professionals as from April 2015. The introduction will be phased in over three three-year cycles, ending in March 31, 2024. Veterinary para-professionals will be expected to accrue ten (10) structured points and ten (10) unstructured points initially. In the second round (April 2016-March 2021), changes to fifteen (15) structured and thirty (30) unstructured points and in the 3rd cycle, they would have to fulfil a requirement for fifteen (15) structured and thirty five (35) unstructured points. The incremental introduction of CPD aims to alleviate problems with access to opportunities that are much more important. The target date in line with the settlement agreement is June 2015. The review process is far bigger than that. I take the opportunity to invite members of the professions to use the opportunity as we review the act, the regulations and rules to make them work in your interest, I was recently asked about the representation of veterinary para-professionals and in reply indicated that this is predetermined in legislation and it is only through amending the principal legislation that we can have a different dispensation. I look forward to seeing members participating in future workshops as planned but those who are unable to attend should also send their comments electronically.

“As far as the Veterinary profession is concerned, tail docking is out-dated, unethical and unnecessary as it has no advantage for the animal or their welfare.”

Dr. Christo Labuschagne, Hendrik Engelbrecht and Boitshoko Nthshabe at the Gauteng Veterinary Services’ Community Service Clinic in Hammanskraal.

“Council has resolved to commence with the CPD requirements as part of maintenance of registration for veterinary para-professionals as from April 2015.”

The SAVC will finalise the rules for veterinary para-professionals in a date not later than the 30th of April 2015. We want to close this chapter and move on to other issues of concern to the professions and the ease of attending such CPD opportunities as they arise due to work and other commitments. We hope that colleagues will seize the moment and ensure that full compliance is achieved.

“One HEALTH

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Business continuity is going to be the biggest challenge faced by many including those in private practice in 2015 owing to the weakness in the Eskom’s ability to provide electricity. Our new building has seen the installation of solar power to ensure that we remain available whenever members stop by for one or other reason and thus avoid any disruption in service that we offer to you.

Thank you, Boitshoko

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UPDATE………………..4
• TOPS permits for Veterinarians are not accepted.
• WRSA - the case is pending a date.
• CCS - DAFF communicated the date for implementation of CCS as tentatively being 2016.
• Follow up meetings with the Registrars of Act 36 and 101 are scheduled for June 2015.
• Members of the Professions are invited to comment on the One Health Concept.
• Members are reminded to pay the annual maintenance fees.

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THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE…………………………..1
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ARE YOU A COMPLIANT PROFESSIONAL?………………..9
It has come to Council’s notice that several veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals are in default of SAVC requirements and may be unaware of the serious consequences.

Members of the veterinary and veterinary para-professions have certain obligations under the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982 and its regulations and rules.

CPD FOR VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS………………..14
Read about the compliance with CPD requirements on page 14.

SUICIDE - ASSISTANCE TO COLLEAGUES IN NEED……………….15
Our professions have been under severe pressure lately. From documentaries on how exorbitant our fees are, to the Siltungana debacle, to rhino poaching scandals, to the ‘And hippo scandal... We serve in professions where gratification is very rarely expressed by our clients or employers. Contact members of the Stress Portfolio if you need assistance.

TALL DOCKING……………………….21
The tail makes up an important part of communication from dog to dog and from dog to man, and even when a dog’s tail is wagging, looking at the tail itself renders a lot of information about what the dog is trying to say.
UPDATE ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

REPORT TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES: 26 MARCH 2015

The SAVC reported on the SAVC’s Vision and Mission, Core functions: Strategic goals and the main Registrar some of which are mentioned below. The presentation and background documents are available on this link.

THREATENED OR PROTECTED SPECIES (TOPS) PERMITS:

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) contacted and met with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) at short notice on Wednesday, 11 March 2015. Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele, President of the SAVC attended the meeting as part of the DAFF delegation. Following this meeting the SAVC submitted to DAFF the Amendment Act, Act No 16 of 2012 pertaining specifically to the inspectorate; regulations pertaining to the increase in the maximum fine from R 25 000 to R 500 000; and amendments to Rule 10 pertaining to the use of medicines which determines that the veterinarian is the end-user of chemical immobilisation medicines. The information was further transmitted to the DEA in yet another attempt to ensure that the SAVC is in a position to regulate the veterinary profession and that the veterinary profession should not be required to obtain additional permits. No further developments can be reported.

WILDLIFE RANCHING SOUTH AFRICA (WRSA) VS SAVC

The matter in which the WRSA has taken DAFF, the SAVC and MCC to task regarding the use of chemical immobilisation (anaesthesia) medicines as per Rule 10 of the rules for veterinarians is still pending a court date. It is expected that the matter will be heard during the second half of 2015.

COMPULSORY VETERINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE (CCS)

The DAFF communicated the date for implementation of CCS as tentatively being 2016. Information regarding the process, including Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs] is available on the SAVC’s website on this link. CCS will be centrally controlled under the guidance of the DAFF. For information please contact Drs T Engel (engeltina31@gmail.com) and M Mathonsi (MosheMathonsi@daff.gov.za) at DAFF.

AMENDMENT ACT, ACT NO 16 OF 2012

The Act was assented to on 6 December 2012. However the Act is not in operation and is pending the finalisation of the regulations pertaining to CCS, regulations, Appeals, Inspectors and Suspensions. It is foreseen that the regulations will be finalised within the next quarter of the year. Please visit this link for access to the Integrated Act, or to this link for a copy of the Amendment Act.

MEDICINES AND STOCK REMEDIES

MEETINGS HELD WITH THE REGISTRARS OF ACT 101 OF 1965 AND ACT 36 OF 1947

One of the goals during the current term of office of this Council is to achieve vast improvement of the control and use of veterinary medicines and stock remedies in the interest of Food Safety and Security, human and animal health and well-being. The task to do this was given to the Food Safety Committee of the SAVC who met with the Registrars of Acts 10 and 36 on Thursday, 12 February 2015. Included in the discussions were items such as the Role and Mandate of each Registrar; the Route to the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA); Overlaps in dual registration; Compounding of medicines; Antimicrobial resistance and food safety; Pharmacovigilance; Licensing of manufactures and wholesalers; Joint inspections of Act 36 and Act 101; Import and Exports of unregistered vaccines and Authorisation of vaccines for clinical trials. These meetings will be continued in future but specifically in June 2015 to ensure that solutions are found for the indiscriminate use of medicines especially in food producing animals.

The Food Safety and Security Committee was informed by the Registrar of Act 101 of 1965 that the current Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill [B 6 - 2014] provides for a dispensation whereby a veterinarian who intends to compound would in future have to obtain a license from the Department of Health [DoH]. Please visit this link for access to the Bill.

For details regarding the concerns relating to Anti-microbial resistance please read this report.

THE ONE HEALTH CONCEPT

One Health Concept is an integral part of the Council’s strategic goals which goals are:

- Being Relevant: Align with the needs of the people of SA
- Legislation: Review, update legislation relevant for SA
- Stakeholders: Unify the veterinary professions
- Resources: Mobilise Resources
- Public Relations: Improve Corporate Personality; Image and Reputation of Council and veterinary professions

The Food Safety and Security Committee developed the veterinary professions’ role in the development of the One Health Concept which can be viewed on this link.

Please comment on how you see the development of the One Health Concept and what the role of the veterinary professions should be at savc@savc.org.za.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE FEES 2015.2016

The SAVC invited members to comment on the Budget 2015.2016 in the December 2014 Newsletter and to provide the SAVC with specific input on the various votes as well as on the proposed 6 % increase. Please read further on page 22.

MEETING WITH THE REGISTRARS OF ACT 101 AND 36 ON 12 FEBRUARY 2015

From Left to Right: Dr C Nkuna, Dr J Gouws, Dr A Sigobodla, Mr M Mudzunga, Dr E Mokantla, Dr P Oberem and Mr M Ramasodi. (Dr J Adam (chairperson) attended but had to catch a flight.)
CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT [CPD]

VETERINARY PROFESSION

The 2015 annual random selection audit for CPD compliance within the veterinary profession commenced. 246 members have been selected for the audit. Please contact the Director Registrations, Ms L L du Plessis at project@savc.org.za should you have any queries. The SAVC no longer collects the CPD points of all members annually.

VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

The first cycle for all registered veterinary para professionals commenced on 1 April 2015. Members are reminded to retain their records and read further on page 14 for full details regarding the new dispensation for veterinary para professionals.

IT Transformation

We reported in previous Newsletters 74 to 79 that the SAVC will embark on an IT transformation process.

Council wishes to pursue the IT transformation process as IT transformation is crucial to the Council, the Administration and the image of the profession.

The South African Veterinary Council is planning to implement a cloud based, web portal platform from which to run its operations. We will keep you updated.

Please contact Mrs Ronel Mayhew at systems@savc.org.za for input.

Review of the rules for Veterinary Para-professionals

The Review Committee held a workshop at the SAVC’s offices on 19 August 2014 with representatives of the veterinary para-professions with a view to discuss the future for these professions.

The SAVC has to date not received feedback on the following agreed matters relating to the veterinary nursing; veterinary technology; animal technician and laboratory animalist professions:

• The professional rules and how it should change

AnimalTalk

Dear SAVC representatives

It gives me great pleasure to share with you an article published in the current (March 2015) issue of Animaltalk on the science of internal parasite control in companion animals. The article contains useful and interesting information on how de-worming products are developed, produced and used as well as information of the internal parasites that affect our pets.

Greetings,
Johann Theron
Editor, Animaltalk

Councillors Drs Peter Oberem and Glen Carlisle contributed to this article Link to article.

Review of the rules for Veterinary Para-professionals

• Codes of Conduct and Practice
• Business plans

Please submit your views to your representative on Council.

• Laboratory animal technological profession

Mr Cor Bester (Cor.bester@nwu.ac.za)

• Veterinary nurse profession:

Sr Theresa Lötter (theresalotter.t6@gmail.com)

• Veterinary technologist profession:

Mr Johann Müller (johannm@kommakoffie.co.za)

• Animal health technician profession:

Mr Johan Oosthuizen (ooostej@unisa.ac.za)

Link to full details on the outcome of the workshop.

Animal Health Day

The SAVC welcomes the World Health Day initiative with the main theme being Food Safety. The SAVC is committed to ensuring that safe food of animal origin is available for the whole of South Africa. We will strive to maximize the use of all sections of the veterinary profession in achieving this goal. The Council commits itself to communicating with all stakeholders that affect Food Safety in ensuring that the efforts around Food Safety are coordinated and implemented.

• Letter from OIE
• Background information

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It has come to Council’s notice that several veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals are in default of the following requirements and may be unaware of the serious consequences.

Members of the veterinary and veterinary para-professions have certain obligations under the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982 and its regulations and rules.

This information is a quick summary as a reminder of these obligations:

• Registration must be maintained on an ongoing basis, which includes providing personal information including contact details and physical and postal addresses required annually by the SAVC, as well as prompt payment of your maintenance fee;

• Notify the SAVC within three months of changing your name and/or surname, as well as physical address or practice/employer;

• Comply with continuing professional development (CPD) requirements and submit proof of CPD activities undertaken in a particular cycle when requested to do so by the SAVC;

• Be competent and fit to practice;

• Comply with all relevant South African legislation;

• Be registered as a specialist with the SAVC when advertising specialist services;

• Employ only registered professionals to perform the services of a veterinarian or the services of a veterinary para-professional;

• Render veterinary services from a registered veterinary facility at all times;

• Submit the clinical records of a particular case immediately upon request by the SAVC;

• Comply with decisions of an Inquiry Body and/or the SAVC relating to the sentence and the penalty handed down following an investigation into your conduct;

• At all times act in a professional manner becoming of your profession;

• Comply fully with any conditions placed regarding your scope of practice or limitations placed on your status by the SAVC.

Please contact the administration at legaldirector@savc.org.za should you require assistance with the interpretation of the above requirements.
Dr GP Retief [D87/2616] was found guilty on 10 November 2014 of

1. On or about 12 June 2012: Contravention of Rule 4(5) and Reg. 2(1) relating to the registration of veterinary facilities in that he rendered veterinary services to by vaccinating a dog whilst he was not rendering those services at or from a veterinary facility registered with the Council;
2. On or about 26 June 2012: He acted in contravention of Rule 4(5) and Reg. 2(1) relating to the registration of veterinary facilities in that he rendered veterinary services to by vaccinating a dog whilst he was not rendering those services at or from a veterinary facility registered with the Council;
3. The vaccines used to vaccinate the animals in paragraphs 1 and 2 above expired in January 2012.

Dr Retief was fined R15 000. In addition, he had to keep up to date with CPD. Furthermore, he was required to decide on or before 31 March 2015 whether to retain his registration with Council or not.
Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Therapy is concerned with identifying and maximising quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habitation and rehabilitation. Movement, function and performance are assessed and goals are agreed upon using unique skills. A demand has been identified to establish a new veterinary para-profession in the field of physiotherapy / physical rehabilitation specifically for animals. As such the new veterinary para-profession would fall under the South African Veterinary Council, as statutory body.

DEMAND FROM OWNERS, TRAINERS AND INDUSTRIES

Animals are highly valued by South African citizens, both as companion animals and in working spheres. These include competition horses, companion dogs as well as companion horses and dogs. Owners have pursued further care to ensure optimal performance and quality of life for their animals. South Africa’s exporting industry for horses has also grown in the racing and endurance disciplines. Trainers and owners realise the value of optimum performance in these athletes.

Human Physiotherapists with further education in the field of animals have formed part of a group offering this service and was permitted to work on animals by way of a gentleman’s agreement between the SAVC and the Heath Professions Council of SA. This group has grown tremendously in South Africa over the last years and many other professionals have become interested in this field. These include veterinarians as well as veterinary nurses. Various other individuals have also recognised the need and tried to make a contribution to this field by completion of short courses, reading books and educating themselves.

REGISTRATION UNDER THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

In light of all of this the South African Veterinary Council called a meeting in October 2012 to evaluate the need to have this profession catered and regulated by Council. This meeting was attended by representatives of all fields within the current practising field. These included physiotherapists, veterinary nurses, veterinarians, hydrotherapists, equine body workers, canine body workers, chiropractors, Equine-Librium College and others. The decision to start the process of registering a single profession under the SAVC was recommended by almost everyone. A工作组 was formed with representatives from all groups. It is the group’s responsibility to provide recommendations to the SAVC for registering this profession. The aim is to improve optimal health and quality of life which includes reducing pain and discomfort in animals. All animals should be free of pain and discomfort.

The workgroup have met several times over the past year and a half. The scope of practice, day one skills and minimum standards documents have been approved in principle by SAVC. Members of the workgroup gave feedback to their members and gave input to the workgroup on these documents.

The scope of practice and day-one skills documents describe the necessary skills required by this professional.

The minimum standards document is the layout of the qualification into the field. Any provider, who would like to offer the qualification, requires accreditation with the Council of Higher Education (CHE), registration with the qualification with SAQA, and registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET); approval of the standards of education and training will fall under the SAVC.

The provider offering the qualification is a necessary step in registering the profession. Any provider may apply to the SAVC to have its curriculum evaluated for acceptance. Such providers will be required to do the Self Evaluation Report.

The Regulations and Rules document will set out specific guidelines for practices.

These will include minimum equipment required, practice requirements, rules and regulations, and minimum standards relating to practice successfully.

Part of the process of registering a new profession is the registration of current practising therapists under the grandfather clause. It is anticipated that everyone who wishes to register and work in this field in South Africa will in future have to complete the prescribed qualification and register automatically under SAVC. The grandfather clause provides for registration in the change-over period. All therapists who wish to register with the SAVC to continue practising will be required to do so within six months after the SAVC promulgated the new profession.

It was suggested by the workgroup that the process under the grandfather clause includes a theory and practical examination. The specifics of this process still need to be finalised and accepted by SAVC.

The South African Animal Physical Rehabilitation Association (SAAPRA) will serve as an association to the profession. An association will offer CPD courses and represent members on SAVC. Please make contact to apply for membership and receive information on the first meeting – saapra2014@gmail.com

Amnesty period for veterinary technologists lapsed

Council received a request from the South African Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAAVT) in July 2013 to grant amnesty to members of the profession who held prescribed qualifications who were not registered with Council, as required by law. A decision was taken by Council on 31 July 2013 to grant amnesty against prosecution of veterinary technologists with prescribed qualifications who lapsed their registration. The amnesty period expired on 30 September 2014.

Any holder of a prescribed qualification who performs the services of a veterinary technologist must be registered with Council and must follow the prescribed registration process. Employers of employees without the prescribed qualifications must apply for authorisation of such persons to perform the tasks of veterinary technologists.

Please contact Ms Talita Coetzee (authorise@savc.org.za) should you need more information in this regard.
CPD special dispensation for veterinary para-professions

During the Council meeting on 21 and 22 October 2014, Council approved the implementation of its CPD requirements for Veterinary Para-professions, after a trial run took place over the period 1 April 2009 – November 2012.

Council has furthermore decided to not implement the regulations as was initially and over a period of six years resolved, but has created a special dispensation for the veterinary para-professions, in that:

- All veterinary para-professionals registered or authorised on, or before 1 April 2015 will have to commence their first CPD cycle on 1 April 2015. This cycle will end 31 March 2018, and ten (10) structured and ten (10) unstructured CPD points must be achieved for this period.
- The above mentioned members must achieve fifteen (15) structured and thirty (30) unstructured CPD points in their second CPD cycle (1 April 2018 till 31 March 2021), and
- Fifteen (15) structured and thirty five (35) unstructured CPD points are required for their third cycle (1 April 2021 till 2024). The CPD requirement will remain as for this period for the rest of the cycles following 2024.

The same CPD requirements will apply to members who register with Council from 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2018.

Members who register with Council from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2021, must achieve fifteen (15) structured and thirty (30) unstructured CPD points in their first CPD cycle (1 April 2018 till 31 March 2021), and for any consecutive three year CPD cycle thereafter, they must have fifteen structured and thirty five (35) unstructured CPD points.

Please note that in April 2018, only members who have been randomly selected to partake in the audit will be requested to submit proof of their structured CPD activities. Please start collecting CPD points now!

For more detail regarding CPD cycles, please see the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration date with Council</th>
<th>1st CPD cycle 10 Structured &amp; 10 unstructured points</th>
<th>2nd CPD cycle 10 Structured &amp; 30 unstructured points</th>
<th>3rd CPD cycle 15 Structured &amp; 35 unstructured points</th>
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<td>Before 1 April 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/04/2018 – 31/03/2019</td>
<td>01/04/2019 – 31/03/2022</td>
<td>01/04/2022 – 31/03/2025</td>
<td>Next 3 year cycle</td>
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<td>01/04/2024 – 31/03/2027</td>
<td>01/04/2023 – 31/03/2026</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please submit CPD structured activities to the CPD Accreditation Committee for accreditation of activities of veterinary para-professions. Contact Mrs Lenora Erasmus at exams@savc.org.za for full details.

SUCIDE assistance to colleagues in need

Dear Colleagues

The recent reports on suicide amongst our colleagues hit really hard. There has always been the rumour that the veterinary profession has one of the highest suicide rates, but it is only now that it has hit reality in my mind. Our professions has been under severe pressure lately - from documentaries on how exorbitant our fees are, to the Sitatunga debacle, to rhino poaching scandals, to the dead hippo scandal... We serve in professions where gratification is very rarely expressed by our clients or employers. We are expected to do miracles with as little money as possible or even simply euthanise healthy pets due to irresponsible pet ownership. Due to the information available on the internet, clients even diagnose their own pets and demand what medication we should dispense. The current economic climate certainly does not help either. Depression is a reality! It is not something to be ashamed of and it is certainly not a sin! The good news are that there is help if we just reach out. I wish to share a few tips to emotional wellbeing, which I’ve learnt through heartache and trauma:

1. Maintain your integrity at all times. Nobody has the right to try and force you to do something against your moral and ethical values.
2. Set healthy boundaries, both in the workplace and at home with your family. A boundary is a personal “property” line that marks the things that we are responsible for. It clearly delineates yes and no in situations. If our parents did not know how to set healthy boundaries, they would not have been able to teach us how to do it. A good book giving guidance on this is “Boundaries” by Dr Henry Cloud and Dr John Townsend.
3. Remember that you can only give of yourself if your own cup is overflowing. If your cup is only half full, you are giving at the expense of yourself.
4. Try and live a balanced life and make time for hobbies. Creativity is linked to the emotional part of your brain and by doing something creative, it stimulates “feel good” emotions.
5. Try everyday to identify at least one thing that you can be grateful for in your life.
6. Look around you and deliberately breathe in the beauty of nature around you.
7. Air your emotions - don’t keep it cropped up inside. Cropping it up inside will digest you from inside and it also causes magnification of the problem.
8. Have a support group - whether it is friends, close family or spiritual family.
9. Forgive quickly. Unforgiveness keeps YOU captive and not the person that has wronged you.
10. If you have unresolved issues in your life, deal with it and put it behind you. Don’t cling to the past as it may cloud your future. Seek help if you have to!
11. Nobody has the right to belittle your problem. Nobody has the exact same circumstances, temperament type and life history than you!
12. If you feel overwhelmed by life, seek help! If you feel that no progress is made at one psychologist/ psychiatrist/counsellor, try someone else!
13. If you are a spiritual person, keep on “feeding” your spiritual life and don’t neglect it.

Remember that help is just a phone call away! You are a unique person. Not just do you have unique fingerprints, you even have a unique voice. The frequencies, tone and timbre of every voice are unique. Embrace your uniqueness!

Councillors fulfilling the duties of the stress portfolio
Please contact these members:

Dr Anne de Vos
apdevos@telkomsa.net
082 784 9363

Dr Lipalesa Motjope
lmotjope@gmail.com
071 637 8535

Dr Ziyanda Majokweni
ziyanda.majokweni@wethers.co.za
084 616 6084

Courtesy of Dr Sunelle Strydom

NEWSLETTER 80, APRIL 2015 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL
VETERINARY NURSES

Veterinarians working in South Africa are reminded that any veterinary nurse employed should either be authorised by or registered with the SAVC. The only veterinary nursing qualification currently accepted for automatic registration with the SAVC is the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria.

VISITATIONS

INTERNATIONAL VISITATIONS

University of Bristol

Dr Danie Odendaal attended the RCVS/EAEVE visitation to the University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Sciences from 23 – 28 November 2014. The report from the University of Bristol has been accepted by Council on 10 February 2015 for automatic registration with the SAVC.

Photos supplied by Dr D Odendaal

University of Cambridge

Prof Vinny Naidoo has attended the RCVS/EAEVE visitation to the University of Cambridge, Veterinary School from 9 – 13 March 2015.

Photos supplied by Prof V Naidoo

James Cook University

Dr Peter Ardington will attend the visitation to James Cook University, Australia from 4 – 8 May 2015.

Photos supplied by Dr P Ardington

PNEUMONIA: Cure it before it’s too late

When pneumonia strikes, you have one chance to cure it. Get it right, with Resflor®, injectable solution. Resflor®’s, single shot, dual action formula combines the fast curing power of an antibiotic (florfenicol) with an anti-inflammatory (flunixin). From the second you treat it goes to work controlling the bacterial infection, reducing fever and stopping the events that lead to irreversible lung damage.

When it comes to curing pneumonia, give it your best shot: dual action Resflor®, injectable solution.
**LOCAL VISITATIONS**

University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science

A re-visit following the visitation in May 2013 will take place from 28 – 29 May 2015. Dr Danie Odendaal (2013 team leader) and Dr Boitshoko Nshabele (2013 team member and current SAVC president) will attend. They will be joined by Prof Reuben Rose from the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC).

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Faculty of Science

Prof Estelle Venster has been appointed team leader for the visitation team to TUT from 28 September – 2 October 2015. The other team members are: Mr Francois Dreyer, Mr Johann Müller, Ms Riette Theron and a representative of the medical fraternity is to be nominated.

**FULL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION**

Computer Based Examination: Thursday, 1 to Friday, 2 October 2015

Oral / Practical Examination: Tuesday, 6 to Thursday, 8 October 2015 (veterinarians)

Friday, 9 October 2015 (veterinary para-professions)

Prof Banie Penzhorn has been appointed as examination officer and Dr Threshni Chetty as deputy examination officer for 2015.

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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

A new Standards Committee, a sub-committee of the SAVC Education Committee, was recently established and held their first meeting on 26 January 2015. Prof Vinny Naidoo chairs the meeting and the other committee members are: Dr Kenneth Joubert, Sr Theresa Lötter and Mr Cor Bester.

Prof Vinny Naidoo (Chairperson) Dr Kenneth Joubert Sr Theresa Lötter Mr Cor Bester

The Standards Committee, amongst other responsibilities, will be responsible for:

- liaising with University Councils;
- fostering regional harmonisation of veterinary and veterinary para-professional training;
- further investigating of national/regional accreditation examinations; and
- overseeing the process of bringing new veterinary para-professions and/or institutions on board.

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**The Facility registration process**

At present, and until the amendments to regulations and rules have been finalised, applicants are issued with a practice/facility number in order for the veterinarian to continue practicing and to be able to procure medication.

The registration process should not take longer than three days – provided that all forms are completed correctly and the application form is commissioned. When applications are received, registration staff members confirm that all necessary forms are submitted.

Applications where exemption from the minimum standards are requested are forwarded to the Inspections Committee for their input and recommendation, whereafter all facility registration applications will be submitted to Full Council for ratification.

Please contact Charmaine Block (facilities@savc.org.za), or Lorraine du Plessis (project@savc.org.za) for queries pertaining to the registration of facilities.

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**NEWSLETTER 80, APRIL 2015 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL**

Customised veterinary medicines to effectively address your patient’s requirements

**Service Centre:** 0860 109 779

or pharmacist@v-tech.co.za

ISO 9001:2008 Accredited

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Tail docking

South African veterinarians are governed by the VETERINARY AND PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT NO. 19 OF 1982; following our mission statement, to ‘protect the health and well-being of animals and animal populations’, we endeavour to abide by strict rules of practice, ethics and honesty, taking into consideration the client, the profession and most importantly the welfare of the patient.

Observing a global trend where veterinarians are constantly assessing procedures carried out on all animals, it was felt appropriate to cease docking puppies tails as it is considered unnecessary, has no functional value, in no way improves the quality of life of the animal and most importantly is regarded painful and unethical.

Veterinary Science is an ever-evolving science and it is incumbent on us as a profession to stay at the ‘cutting edge’ of developments in all spheres including ethics, as the general population becomes more sensitive to animal welfare and we as a profession become more proficient in understanding the way the animal body works, it is imperative that we are open to change and adapt to the needs of our patients, particularly in minimising the pain inflicted upon them.

Observing a global trend where veterinarians are constantly assessing procedures carried out on all animals, it was felt appropriate to cease docking puppies tails as it is considered unnecessary, has no functional value, in no way improves the quality of life of the animal and most importantly is regarded painful and unethical.

Tail docking is out-dated, unethical and unnecessary as it has no advantage for the animal or their welfare.

Please access these links (and also provide it to your clients):
• Tail docking brochure (http://www.savc.org.za/pdf_docs/tail_d_brochure.pdf)
• SAVC policy (http://www.savc.org.za/tail-docking)

Some tail vocabulary

- Slight wags with small swings: commonly a simple greeting - “Hi there”
- Low sweeping wag: satisfaction, positive interest, “let us play”
- Broad wags: happy and relaxed “glad to see you”
- Fast broad wag or big, fast circular motion: happy slow wags with the tail at half-mast’ less social, could mean insecurity
- Rapid wag with tail between the hind legs: nervousness or fear
- Tail tucked up tight against the abdomen: submission and fear; probably motivated by the need to cover the genitals to avoid another dog’s attempts to sniff or mount him
- Tail raised and bristled: very confident and ready to react aggressively
- A high-held stiff tail signals imminent attack – with or without any other body language visible
- Tail held high and stifly wagging at the tip only – ready to react aggressively

So tail talk may indicate advise of joy, fear, anxiety (thunderstorm approaching), or of caution: it enables one to avoid dog bites and informs when a shy or fearful dog has relaxed and is ready to make friends; while cutting off a dog’s tail can be equated in humans to, if not to losing one’s voice, then losing the ability to describe with your hands: it cuts off part of how they communicate.

As far as the Veterinary profession is concerned, tail docking is out-dated, unethical and unnecessary as it has no advantage for the animal or their welfare.

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WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN CPD POINTS and speak to a Councillor?

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape Branch Congress - Port Alfred</td>
<td>15-16 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Glen Carlisle</td>
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<td>Black Veterinary forum - UP Understepoort</td>
<td>15 May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele</td>
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<td>Animal Behaviour &amp; Interaction Group Congress - Pretoria - Understepoort</td>
<td>16-17 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Glen Carlisle</td>
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<tr>
<td>VACANCY: VETERINARIAN</td>
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<td>Randfontein Animal Hospital (West Gauteng) needs a 2nd vet on a permanent basis to start as soon as possible. This is a Small Animal Practice with a pleasant atmosphere. Randfontein is a friendly and peaceful town. Have digital X-ray development, sonar, etc. New graduates are welcome to apply. Salary according to SAVA-recommended salary guidelines plus extras such as after-hours and phone. Email CV to <a href="mailto:hyaunte@savc.org.za">hyaunte@savc.org.za</a> or contact Dr Hendrik Naude at 082 395 6285 (all hours).</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAVC LATEST MEETING DATES 2015</td>
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<td>Full Council</td>
<td>9 June 2015</td>
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<td>Cut-off date for submissions</td>
<td>18 May 2015</td>
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<td>Cut-off date for submissions</td>
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<td>Committee on Social Policy</td>
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<td>Registration &amp; Authorisation Committee</td>
<td>5 May 2015</td>
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<td>Cut-off date for applications</td>
<td>13 March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Committee</td>
<td>Date to be confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Specialisation</td>
<td>Date to be confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAVC LATEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Message to Veterinary and Veterinary Nurse Employers</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Graduate Career Office at the University of Pretoria strives to ensure that students and graduates are aware of all the employment opportunities available to them. In pursuit of this awareness the Graduate Career Office allows organisations and individual businesses to advertise using our internal advertising channels at R 300 per advert for a 30 day period. The adverts will be placed on the UP Career Page website, notice boards, as well as an email alert will be sent to the relevant students/graduates. The Graduate Career Office would like to invite you to advertise your vacancies, whether temporary or permanent vacancies, we will advertise on your behalf. Feel free to contact us at <a href="mailto:katlego.mashego@up.ac.za">katlego.mashego@up.ac.za</a> / <a href="mailto:gco@up.ac.za">gco@up.ac.za</a> for further details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUDGET 2015 - 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regrettably no input was received when members were requested in Newsletter 79 of December 2014 to make input on the budget. The increase of 7.5% of the annual maintenance fees was necessitated by the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflationary increases and to ensure that market related salaries are paid to staff members; to continue Council’s pursuit of the IT transformation; fund the mortgage bond registered over the property and fund all operations. Please contact the Registrar at <a href="mailto:savc@savc.org.za">savc@savc.org.za</a> should you require an explanation or have concerns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VACANCY: VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow Farms requires a Veterinary Technologist for their laboratory in Rustenburg. Closing date for applications: 23/04/2015. Minimum Requirements: • National Diploma in Veterinary Technology, TUT. • SAVC Registered Veterinary Technologist • Minimum of 2 years’ experience in a laboratory environment with specific experience in Bacteriology and Serology (preferable) Apply online/fax/email (Ref. number #150408-2) <a href="http://www.careers.rclfoods.com/candidateapp/Jobs/">http://www.careers.rclfoods.com/candidateapp/Jobs/</a> View/150408-2/Laboratory_Technologist Fax: +27(0)98 680 8464 email: <a href="mailto:jaunre.hopley@rcf.co.za">jaunre.hopley@rcf.co.za</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

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(Chairperson: Medicines: Pre-packaging) (Wildlife Forum)
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Johan Oosthuizen
(Animal Health Technician Profession)
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Jana Pretorius
(Vice-president) (Wildlife Forum)
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Cell: 076 734 7622

Joseph van Heerden
(Chairperson: CPD Accreditation Committee; SAVA Representative)
doretha@global.co.za
Tel: 053 832 5711

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By placing the advertisements the SAVC does in no way endorse the product or content of the advertisement.

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